

## Amendments to the Claims

1 (original). A hydrogen storage material comprising a first region composed primarily of an amorphous carbon containing at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf and Y, and a second region composed primarily of an amorphous carbon having a density lower than that of the first region.

2 (original). A hydrogen storage material comprising a void present in an amorphous carbon containing at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf and Y.

3 (currently amended). The hydrogen storage material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the content of the metal element is from 0.02 to 30 atomic %.

4 (currently amended). The hydrogen storage material of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ which is in the form of a film, and wherein the second region or the void extends to a thickness direction of the film.

5 (original). A process for the preparation of hydrogen storage materials which comprises providing a source of carbon containing at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf and Y, and forming a film composed of an amorphous carbon containing said metal element on the surface of a base material at a temperature of 773 K or less according to a gas phase synthesis.

6 (original). A process for the preparation of hydrogen storage materials which comprises providing a source of carbon containing at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf and Y, and forming a film composed of an amorphous carbon containing said metal element on the surface of a base material under a process gas pressure of 1.33322 Pa or more according to a sputtering process.

7(new). The hydrogen storage material of claim 2 wherein the content of the metal element is from 0.02 to 30 atomic %.

8 (new). The hydrogen storage material of claim 2 which is in the form of a film, and wherein the second region or the void extends to a thickness direction of the film.

9 (new). The hydrogen storage material of claim 3 which is in the form of a film, and wherein the second region or the void extends to a thickness direction of the film.

10 (new). The hydrogen storage material of claim 7 which is in the form of a film, and wherein the second region or the void extends to a thickness direction of the film.

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